IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 9, 30, and 37; and add claims 48-49 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An automatic user preference detection system, comprising:

a score calculation module to determine a score for a media content file distributed to a user by a media content file distribution source, wherein the score is calculated based on a comparison of a length of time in which the user allows the media content file to be played at a user computing device relative to a total length of the media content file;

a preference determination module to determine a preference file for the user of the media content distribution source, the preference [[filed]] file being based on previously determined media scores for the user and a determination of local media content files stored on the user computing device, wherein the preference determination module scans the user computing device to determine the local media content files stored on the user computing device regardless of whether the user is currently playing the local media content file;

a database to store the preference file for the user of the media content file distribution source; and

a processing module to modify the preference file based on the score, wherein the processing module further selects a second media content file to distribute to the user based on the preference file.

2. (Previously amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the media content file is a music file.

3. (Previously amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein a rate at which the processing module modifies the preference file is configurable.

4. (Previously amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the system determines the length based on the user's responses made with a user control point.

5. (Original)   The system of claim 4, wherein the user control point is a remote control.

6. (Previously amended)   The system according to claim 1, wherein the media content file is sent to the user via an Internet stream.

7. (Previously amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the processing module periodically selects testing media content files to distribute to the user, wherein the testing media content files are randomly selected to test whether the user's media content file preferences have changed.

8. (Previously amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the processing module further modifies the preference file based on responses of other users having similar media preferences.

9. (Currently amended) An automatic user preference detection system, comprising:

a preference determination module to determine a preference file for [[the]] a user of a media content distribution source, the preference file being based on a score determined based on a comparison of a length of time in which the user allows a media content file to be played at a user computing device relative to a total length of the media content file, previously determined media scores for the user and a determination of local media content files stored on the user computing device, wherein

the preference determination module scans the user computing device to determine the

local media content files stored on the user computing device regardless of whether the

user is currently playing the local media content file;;

a database to store a media content preference file for the user of the media

content file distribution source;

a read/write device to read data from and write data to the database; and

a processing module to modify the preference file based on the score, wherein

the processing module further selects a second media content file to distribute to the

user based on the preference file.

10.   (Previously amended)   The system of claim 9, wherein the media

content file is a music file.

11.   (Previously amended)   The system of claim 9, wherein a rate at which

the processing module modifies the preference file is configurable.

12.   (Previously amended)   The system of claim 9, wherein the system

determines the length based on the user's responses made with a user control point.

13.   (Previously amended)   The system of claim 9, wherein the media

content file is sent to the user via an Internet stream.

14.   (Previously amended)   The system of claim 9, wherein the processing

module periodically selects testing media content files to distribute to the user, wherein

the testing media content files are randomly selected to test whether the user's media

content file preferences have changed.

15.   (Previously amended)   The system of claim 9, wherein the processing

module further modifies the preference file based on responses of other users having

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similar media preferences.

16-29. (Cancelled)

30.   (Currently amended)   A method of automatically detecting media

content preferences, comprising:

determining a score for a media content file distributed to a user by a media

content file distribution source, wherein the score is calculated based on a comparison

of a length of time in which the user allows the media content file to be played at a user

computing device relative to a total length of the media content file;

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storing a preference file for the user of the media content file distribution source,

the preference file being based on previously determined media scores for the user and

a determination of local media content files stored on the user computing device,

wherein the user computing device is scanned to determine the local media content

files stored on the user computing device regardless of whether the user is currently

playing he local media content file;

modifying the preference file based on the score; and

selecting a second media content file to distribute to the user based on the

preference file.

31.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 30, wherein the media

content file is a music file.

32.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 30, wherein a rate at

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which the preference file is modified is configurable.

33.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 30, further including

determining the length based on the user's responses made with a user control point.

34. (Previously presented)   The method according to claim 30, further including sending the media content file to the user via an Internet stream.

35. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 30, further including periodically selecting testing media content files to distribute to the user, wherein the testing media content files are randomly selected to test whether the user's media content file preferences have changed.

36. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 30, further including modifying the preference file based on responses of other users having similar media preferences.

37. (Currently amended)   An article comprising a storage medium having stored thereon instructions that when executed by a machine result in the following:

determining a score for a media content file distributed to a user by a media content file distribution source, wherein the score is calculated based on a comparison of a length of time in which the user allows the media content file to be played at a user computing device relative to a total length of the media content file;

storing a preference file for the user of the media content file distribution source, the preference file being based on previously determined media scores for the user and a determination of local media content files stored on the user computing device, wherein the user computing device is scanned to determine the local media content files stored on the user computing device regardless of whether the user is currently playing he local media content file;

modifying the preference file based on the score; and

selecting a second media content file to distribute to the user based on the

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preference file.

38.   (Previously presented)   The article of claim 37, wherein media content file is a music file.

39.   (Previously presented)   The article of claim 37, wherein a rate at which the preference file is modified is configurable.

40.   (Previously presented)   The article of claim 37, wherein the instructions further result in determining the length based on the user's responses made with a user control point.

41.   (Previously presented)   The article of claim 37, wherein the instructions further result in sending the media content file to the user via an Internet stream.

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42.   (Previously presented)   The article of claim 37, wherein the instructions further result in periodically selecting testing media content files to distribute to the user, wherein the testing media content files are randomly selected to test whether the user's media content file preferences have changed.

43.   (Previously presented)   The article of claim 37, wherein the instructions further result in modifying the preference file based on responses of other users having similar media preferences.

44.   (Previously presented)   The automatic user preference detection system according to claim 1, wherein when the user allows multiple media content files to be played, in their entirety, for a predetermined length of time, the score calculation module stops calculating the score for each successive media content file.

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45.   (Previously presented)   The automatic user preference detection system according to claim 9, wherein when the user allows multiple media content files

to be played, in their entirety, for a predetermined length of time, the score calculation module stops calculating the score for each successive media content file.

46. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein when the user allows multiple media content files to be played, in their entirety, for a predetermined length of time, no score for each successive media content file is determined.

47. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 37, wherein when the user allows multiple media content files to be played, in their entirety, for a predetermined length of time, no score for each successive media content file is determined.

48. (New) An automatic music preference detection system, comprising:

a score calculation module to determine a score for a music file distributed to a user by a music file distribution source, wherein the score is calculated based on a comparison of a length of time in which the user allows the music file to be played at a user computing device relative to a total length of the music file;

a preference determination module to determine a preference file for the user of the music distribution source, the preference filed being based on previously determined media scores for the user and a determination of local music files stored on the user computing device, wherein the preference determination module scans the user computing device to determine the local music files stored on the user computing device;

a database to store the preference file for the user of the music file distribution source; and

a processing module to modify the preference file based on the score, wherein

the processing module further selects a second music file to distribute to the user

based on the preference file.

49.   (New) The automatic music preference detection system of claim 48,

wherein the music file is in an MP3 format.

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